



Announcement: Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) Program FY2015

The American Center at U.S. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to announce the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) program. This program is a six-week exchange program for secondary school teachers. The program will take place in Spring (February - March) or Fall (September - November) 2015.

The TEA program is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and implemented by IREX, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization. TEA will provide secondary school teachers from Europe and Eurasia, East Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. The international participants will travel to the United States in two cohorts in Spring or Fall 2015. The program will include coursework and intensive training in teaching methodologies, lesson planning, and teaching strategies for the participants' home environment, as well as the use of computers for Internet, word processing, and as teaching tools. The six-week program will also include a two-week internship at a secondary school to actively engage participants with American teachers and students. Trips to U.S. cultural sites and academic support will be provided for participants throughout the program.

Financial provisions of this fellowship include: J-1 visa support, a pre-departure orientation held in participant's home country, round-trip airfare to and within the U.S., a Welcome Orientation in Washington, D.C., academic program fees, housing (generally shared with other program fellows) and meals, accident and health insurance, transportation to the internship school (if necessary), a book/professional development allowance, a closing seminar hosted by one of the TEA host universities in the U.S., the opportunity to host a U.S. teacher for two weeks, and the opportunity to apply for follow-on grants.

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for the program:

- be a secondary-level, full-time teacher with five or more years of classroom experience in disciplines including **English as a Foreign Language, Social Studies, Civics, Mathematics, and Science;**
- be a citizen of Bangladesh;
- have demonstrated leadership qualities and be committed to continue teaching for at least five years after completion of the TEA program;
- be proficient in written and spoken English. The program requires English language skills sufficient to function independently in the U.S and the ability to express ideas clearly and effectively in university and professional settings;

- have general computer skills, including word processing, basic file management, and familiarity with Microsoft Office;
- have submitted a complete application which includes:
 1. a completed application form (Please do not include the instruction pages) ;
 2. a current CV;
 3. completed recommendation and institutional support forms, completed by a supervisor;
 4. a photocopy of the applicant's passport (information pages only);
 5. 1 passport size photo; and
 6. copies of academic records (mark sheets or transcripts only).

Teachers working in under-resourced communities and for girls' education are particularly encouraged to apply.

Please note that this is a program for practicing teachers. Ministry of Education officials, educational administrators, and full-time teacher trainers, university faculty, and private English-language tutors are not eligible.

Short-listed candidates will be required to sit for a TOEFL or IELTS test, as strong English skills are a requirement for the program. A score of 4.5 or higher on the paper based IELTS, or an equivalent English language examination score, is required to participate in the TEA program. Candidates with valid scores will not be required to test again. The American Center will arrange all testing as required.

Applicants must follow all application instructions and submission guidelines. Short-listed candidates will be called for an interview, and applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements listed above will not be forwarded to the selection committee.

A copy of this announcement and the application forms are available at http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational_cultural_exchanges.html. Please send completed applications to the attention of Ms. Tahniah Shahid at the American Center, U.S. Embassy Annex, J Block, Progoti Sharni, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, **no later than Thursday, April 3, 2014.**

Please note that the closing date for applications is final. Previous candidates may reapply, with the understanding that this is a worldwide competition and all applicants will go through a rigorous screening process. Finalists will be notified at the end of September 2014.

For additional information about this program, please contact Cultural Affairs Assistant Ms. Tahniah Shahid (Phone: 8855500, Ext.2808; e-mail address: ShahidTX@state.gov).

Sincerely,

Bilal Faruqi
Cultural Affairs Officer for Education & Exchanges